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Excursion for the  
City History Club of New York.  
by Frank Bergen Kelley.  
No. 6. Fraunces' Tavern.



Class F 128

Book 8  
F 7/73







EXCURSION  
PLANNED FOR THE  
**CITY HISTORY CLUB**  
OF  
**NEW YORK**  
• BY

FRANK BERGEN KELLEY, A.M., Ph. D.



PRICE, 5 CENTS.

No. VI.

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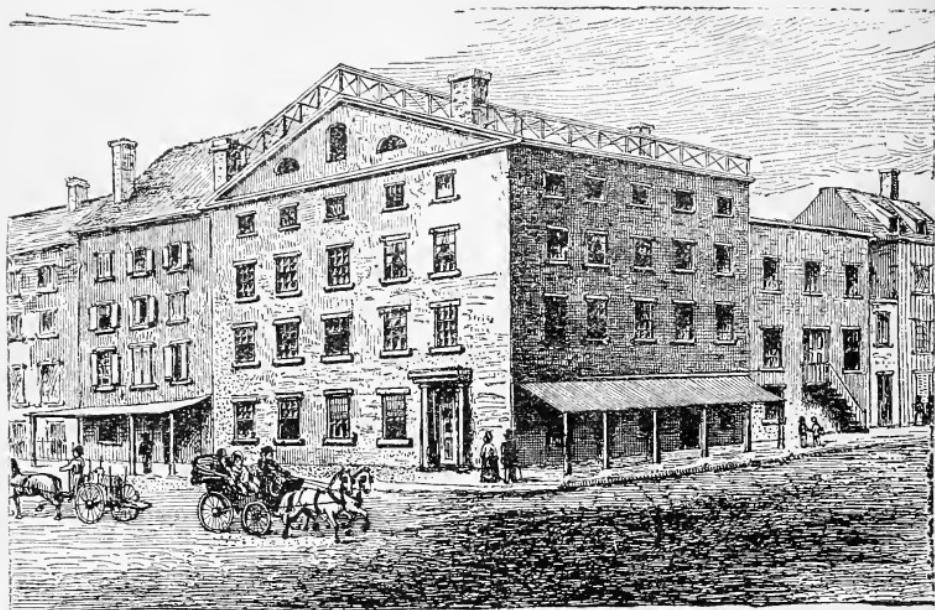
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# EXCURSION No. VI.

# FRAUNCES' TAVERN,

*Corner of Broad and Pearl Streets.*

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FORMER APPEARANCE OF FRAUNCES' TAVERN.

From Todd's "Story of the City of New York." G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Fraunces' Tavern is one of the oldest houses in New York City, and has been the scene of many stirring events of Revolutionary days. It was built in 1730 by Etienne DeLancey, founder of the DeLancey family, on land conveyed to him by his father-in-law, Stephanus Van Cortlandt.

[Memorial History of the City of New York, Wilson, iv, 233.

The house was originally of the Anglo-Dutch type, with two stories, and a double pitched roof as represented in the accompanying cut. It was constructed of small yellow Holland bricks.

[Wilson, ii, 450-1.

The building still stands on the old site, corner of Pearl and Broad Streets, and is yet called Fraunces' Tavern, but a fifth story and flat roof have been added, changing considerably the outward appearance of the building.



Gift  
Author

It was purchased and opened as a tavern about 1762 by Sam Fraunces, called "Black Sam," from his swarthy appearance, as he was a West India creole.

[Wilson, iv, 233.]

It was designated at various times the "Queen's Head" and "Bolton and Sigel's," but it is now known by its original name.

In the Long Room of this Tavern was organized (April 8, 1768), the New York Chamber of Commerce, the oldest Mercantile Association in America.

[Wilson, ii, 390.]

Several meetings were held here early in 1769 to consider the passage of a second non-importation agreement.

[Wilson, ii, 391, 397.]

Five years later, on the 14th of May, 1774, a meeting of merchants was held at Fraunces' Tavern to organize the famous "Committee of Correspondence" to whose firm and consistent adherence to the idea of union the Continental Congress owed its origin.

[Wilson, ii, 434.]

The Social Club, composed of men like John Joy, Gouverneur Morris, R. R. Livingston and Morgan Lewis, made this their headquarters before the Revolution.

[Wilson, ii, 474.]

The building was struck by a shot from the *Asia*, giving rise to the oft-quoted lines of Freneau :

Scarce a broadside was ended till 'nother began again,  
By Jove! It was nothing but fire away, Flanagan!  
Some thought him saluting his Sallys and Nancys,  
'Till he drove a round shot through the roof of Sam Francis.

[Wilson, ii, 475.]

But the most notable event in the history of Fraunces' Tavern was when George Washington, on the 4th of December, 1783, took farewell of his officers in the old Long Room. Sam Fraunces afterwards became the household steward of President Washington.

[Wilson, iii, 562-567.]

Stone, in his History of New York, states (p. 231) that the Governors of the New York Hospital met here quite frequently.

Thus, few buildings, certainly no other house now standing in New York, can claim so much of historic interest as does the ancient edifice on Broad and Pearl Streets, almost opposite the site of the first City Hall of New Amsterdam.

See "The Landmark of Fraunces' Tavern" pub. by the "Woman's Auxiliary to the Soc. for the Preservation of Scenic and Historic Places and Objects." Mrs. V. P. Humason, 574 Palisade avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.



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